



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
Group Art Unit 1638

In re

Patent Application of

Vincent L. Chiang, et. al.

Application No. 09/980,043

Confirmation No. 9579

Filed: April 5, 2002

Examiner: Medina Ahmed Ibrahim

“METHOD FOR ENHANCING CELLULOSE
AND MODIFYING LIGNIN BIOSYNTHESIS IN
PLANTS”

I, Leslie Smith, hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the US Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date of my signature.

Leslie Smith
Signature

March 22, 2004

Date of Signature

AMENDMENT & RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Office action mailed November 21, 2003, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration on the merits of the application and allowance of the claims in light of the following amendments and remarks. A Request for a One-Month Extension of Time extending the deadline for reply from February 21, 2004 to March 21, 2004, and the appropriate fee are included with this submission. The response, which is being filed on Monday, March 22, 2004 is timely filed because the extended deadline fell on a Sunday.

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims appear in the listing of claims which begins on page 3.

Remarks begin on page 6 of this paper.